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| February 29, 2016  Dear Seventh Graders,  Today we will begin our second “whole-class” novel – *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Like *The Skin I’m In*, Hinton’s novel describes the challenges of navigating through the difficult world of adolescence, and the overwhelming yearning for a sense of belonging. However, unlike *The Skin I’m In*, *The Outsiders* is narrated from a male perspective, and touches on conflict beyond inter-personal rivalry and animosity.  When *The Outsiders* was first published in 1967, it was considered groundbreaking for giving voice to disaffected (discontented) youths and addressing social issues that were not often discussed in young adult fiction, or at least in such a candid manner. Part of the story’s appeal perhaps stems from the fact that the author wrote the novel when she was in high school, and as such, captured teenagers’ struggles in a convincing way. The novel is a good text from which to examine the impact of social forces and expectations and how they shape characters, conflict, and the outcome of events in the story.  As before, follow the reading schedule set out on the Tentative Unit Calendar on the backside of this letter. On average, you are expected to read approximately 15 pages each day. You may read ahead if you so wish, but make sure to reread or review assigned sections to refresh your memory in the event of reading check quizzes and class discussions. On the other hand, if you are struggling to keep up with your readings, we encourage you to schedule a time to meet with me, Elinora or one of the teachers to discuss sections of the story you find confusing or challenging.  Finally, this is a good time to remind you of the basic ELA materials that you are expected to bring with you to class each day. Please note that leaving any of the following required materials in your locker or asking to borrow such materials = being unprepared:   * pen or pencil * ideas journal * notebook * folder for ELA handouts, homework, and loose leaf paper * (For the double period on Tuesdays and Fridays) independent reading book   IN ADDITION, for Unit 6, you are also required to bring to class at all times:   * This letter, which contains the Unit 4 Calendar * your copy of *The Outsiders* * your own stack of post-it notes   We hope you enjoy the novel. We look forward to hearing your questions, observations and ideas during class discussions.  Your 7 ELA Teachers    Tentative Calendar  Unit 6: *The Outsiders*  \*\* We will fill in other important items and deadlines as the unit progresses. \*\*  \* Check off the box when you finish the assigned reading for the day. \*   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **March 2016** | | | | | | | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat/Sun** | | ***Feb 29*** | ***1***   * pgs. 1-12 | ***2***   * pgs. 13-18   End of Chap. 1 | ***3***   * pgs. 19-31 | ***4***   * pgs. 32-36   End of Chap. 2 | ***5/6***   * pgs. 37-52   End of Chap. 3 | | ***7***   * pgs. 53-67   End of Chap. 4 | ***8***   * pgs. 68-84   End of Chap. 5 | ***9***   * pgs. 85-99   End of Chap. 6 | ***10***   * pgs. 100-110 | ***11***   * pgs. 111-118   End of Chap. 7 | ***12/13***   * pgs. 119-130   End of Chap. 8 | | ***14***   * pgs. 131-149   End of Chap. 9 | ***15***   * pgs. 150-160   End of Chap. 10 | ***16***   * pgs. 161-166   End of Chap. 11 | ***17***   * pgs. 167-180   End of Book | ***18*** | ***19/20*** | | ***21*** | ***22*** | ***23*** | ***24*** | ***25*** | ***26/27*** |   Dear Parent or Guardian, please review the letter, the class expectations described, and the tentative calendar before signing on the line provided:  Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |